



countdown

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Discovery's flow control valves reinstalled and tested for flight



◆ Shuttle Update:

Three thoroughly inspected flow control valves arrived at Kennedy on Tuesday. Technicians installed them in space shuttle Discovery and then retested them. NASA's Space Shuttle Program managers met Wednesday to review the testing.

◆ **ELV Update:** Kepler is scheduled to launch 10:49 p.m. Friday. The launch will be broadcast on the NASA TV Public Channel. Also, NASA's home on the Internet, <http://www.nasa.gov>, will provide extensive prelaunch and launch day coverage of the Kepler mission.

NASA has selected the members of the board that will investigate the unsuccessful launch of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory, or OCO, on Feb. 24. Rick Obenschain, deputy director at Goddard Space Flight Center, will lead the mishap investigation board. The board consists of four other voting members:

-- Jose Caraballo, safety manager at NASA's Langley Research Center.

■ **Did You Know?** The name of March comes from ancient Rome, when March was the first month of the year and named Martius after Mars, the Roman god of war.

March is also **Women's History Month**, an annual declared month that highlights contributions of women to events in history. The event traces its beginnings to the first International Women's Day in 1911.

-- Patricia Jones, acting chief of the Human Systems Integration Division in the Exploration Technology Directorate at NASA's Ames Research Center.

-- Richard Lynch, Aerospace Systems Engineering, Goddard Space Flight Center.

-- Dave Sollberger, deputy chief engineer of the NASA Launch Services Program at KSC.

The ex officio member is Ruth Jones, Safety and Mission Assurance manager at Marshall Space Flight Center. The ex officio member ensures board activity conforms to NASA procedural requirements.

The board began its investigation March 3. The members will gather information, analyze the facts, and identify the failure's cause or causes and contributing factors. The board will make recommendations for actions to prevent a similar incident.

■ **Save The Date: April 18 Is Family Day** — On April 18, badged KSC, CCAFS and contract employees are invited to bring family and friends to the 2009 KSC/CCAFS Family Day. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details about facilities, exhibits and activities, as well as a link to the Family Day Web site will be available soon.

■ **Ride The Wave Of Technology With ODIN** — Come to the ODIN IT Expo 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 19 in the O&C Mission Briefing Room (O&C/1144). Some vendors will include Microsoft, Dell, Apple, Kingston and Fujitsu.

Kepler on track for Friday night launch

■ **Florida Institute of Technology** — Complete your master's degree in two years, two courses per term! Florida Tech is offering Master of Science in space systems, Master of Science in space systems management, Master of Science in computer information systems, Master of Science in computer science and Master of Science in software engineering. Applications are being accepted for the summer term April 27 through August 7. Classes are held 5 – 8 p.m. one night a week in the Rockledge and KSC locations; online courses are available. For more information, go to www.uc.fit.edu or contact Sharon Anderson in Rockledge at 321-504-4142 or e-mail sanderso@fit.edu.

■ **Reminder** — Register online now to enter the All-American Dessert Contest at the All-American Picnic on Saturday at <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/dessert.html>. All desserts must be at the dessert booth at KARS Park by 10 a.m. Saturday.

There will be four judged categories: cake, pie, cookies and candy. First and second place awards will be given in all judged categories. Judging begins at 11 a.m. Awards will be presented at 2 p.m.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.